

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A melt filter for cleaning a plastic melt issuing from an extruder, the filter comprising:

a wheel rotatable about an axis and having an outer rim and a plurality of spokes forming an annular array of axially open spaces;

a pair of housing plates axially sandwiching and completely covering the wheel and forming offset from the axis a melt passage extending axially through the wheel at the spaces;

removable filter elements braced axially against the wheel at the spaces between the spokes, one of the plates being formed with an edge cutout of a dimension greater than an angular width of one of the filter elements and smaller or equal to twice this angular width, whereby filter elements can be removed from the wheel at the cutout, an angular spacing between the passage where it passes through the wheel and the cutout being at least equal to the angular filter-element width plus an angular dimension of one of the spokes and at most equal to twice the angular filter-element width plus an angular dimension of one of the spokes;

a part on the one housing plate that can cover and close the cutout during normal operation of the melt filter and that can open and uncover the cutout for changing the filter element aligned axially with the cutout; and

a ratchet drive engaging the rim and operable to angularly move the wheel about the axis in steps.

9 - 10. (canceled)

1 11. (previously presented) The melt filter defined in
2 claim 8 wherein an area of the disk through which the melt flows is
3 between 12% and 18% of a total area of the disk.

1 12. (previously presented) The melt filter defined in
2 claim 9 wherein an area of the disk through which the melt flows is
3 between 14% and 16% of a total area of the disk.

1 13. (previously presented) The melt filter defined in
2 claim 8 wherein each step of the disk exposes a fresh area of the
3 filter disk equal to at most 10% of a total area of the disk.

1 14. (previously presented) The melt filter defined in
2 claim 13 wherein each step of the disk exposes a fresh area of the
3 filter disk equal to between 6% and 7% of a total area of the disk.